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(54) EXPOSURE LIGHT QUANTITY CONTROLLER  
FOR ON-VEHICLE IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To adjust optimizngly an exposure of an image pickup device mounted on a mobile body such as a vehicle.

SOLUTION: A video signal from a CCD camera 10 is fed to an image processing ECU 20 being a microcomputer. The image processing ECU 20 estimates a position of a vehicle at a succeeding image pickup timing based on a signal from a vehicle velocity sensor 16 and a direction sensor 18, and also calculates a position in an image at the estimated position and calculates an optimum electronic shutter time required to obtain a desired CCD output voltage from the relation between the CCD output value at the position and the electronic shutter exposure time. When the vehicle reaches actually the point, the ECU 20 provides an output of an optimum electronic shutter time control signal to the CCD camera 10, which picks up an image by the received electronic shutter time.

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